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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 23 | Humidity 67% Partly Cloudy Sensex 82,429 | Nifty 24,924 | Gold 92,934 | Silver 95,382 | Dollar 84.87 | Euro 94.38 | GBP 111.98

KEEP AN AI

City police to launch AI-powered platform to monitor social media activities so that they can track misleading content online and respond swiftly

PAGE 3

DICEY WATER

Reduced milk yield from cattle, skin diseases are some of the issues reported by farmers using treated water from HN Valley project

PAGE 4

Off-season surveillance and strengthening of on-field staff has helped BBMP rein in dengue cases, officials say — between Jan and April this year, 455 cases recorded as compared to 930 in same period last year

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY

Numbers have risen since April's rain, so don't let your guard down

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru has recorded a considerable drop in the number of dengue cases in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits compared with last year.

According to data from BBMP's Health Department, the number of cases between January and April has decreased by more than 51% compared to dengue cases in the corresponding time in 2024.

Between January and April this year, 455 dengue cases have been recorded across all eight BBMP zones. In 2024, the number of cases was 930. In May last year, too, a whopping 782 cases were recorded. Only 88 cases have been reported until May 10 this year.

Surveillance helped

Officials from the department say the drop is due to an increase in off-season surveillance and strengthening of on-field staff. The door-to-door surveillance has been strengthened to monitor the breeding of larval sites.

"This year, we have started extensive surveillance much ahead of the dengue season. The number of on-ground staff involved in the exercise has also been increased to nearly 2,000. Every staff member covers 50 houses daily, helping us cover nearly one lakh houses. We have been focused on source reduction since the beginning of the year, leading to a drop in the number of cases. Moreover, Bengaluru had experienced early rainfall last year,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Fog effect: Fumigation is one of the weapons in BBMP's arsenal against dengue

"Every staff member covers 50 houses daily, helping us cover nearly one lakh houses. We have been focused on source reduction since the beginning of the year —BBMP official

Temple for all

Officials' visit, peace meeting, and stress on legal provisions help tackle alleged discrimination

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An incident involving alleged caste-based discrimination reported just around 100 km from Bengaluru in Kavanadala village of Madhugiri Taluk in Tumakuru, on Sunday, has brought into the spotlight the prevailing situation.

According to police sources, a youth from the Scheduled Caste community, identified as Swaminatha, went to the local Sri Ramanjaneya Temple to perform a puja. During his visit, he was reportedly stopped and questioned by another villager, identified as Sivananda, regarding his entry into the temple. A video of the exchange later circulated on social media.

Upon receiving information about the incident and in light of the video gaining traction online, senior police and district officials visited the village. The team included Additional Superintendent of Police C Gopal, DySP Manjunath, Tahsildar Shireen Taj, and officials from the Social Welfare Department.

Authorities conducted a peace meeting with residents from Kavanadala and nearby villages. During the meeting, officials emphasised on legal provisions regarding equality and non-discrimination in public spaces. Instructions were given to ensure that no person is barred from entering public or religious places on the basis of caste.

Following the peace meeting,

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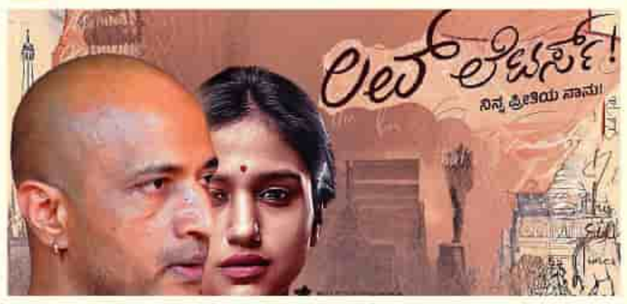
THINGS TO DO



01 Timeless bonds

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'Love Letters- Ninna Preetiya, Naanu!', a play about friendship, missed chances, and the kind of connection that refuses to fade. It's a reminder that sometimes the words we write live longer than the moments we live.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: May 29 and 30, 7.30 pm

02 Pets' day out

Pet Fed is presenting its Express Edition Pet Festival.

Pets are in for a treat as the event offers an exclusive play area, a pet fashion show, a pet talent show, pet shopping stalls, and food and beverages for your beloved companions.
Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka;
When: May 25, 11 am

03 Mythic marvel

Academy of Music and Nrithya Rangoli Festival is presenting Rama Katha Vismaya, a broadway style grand spectacle that brings together 60 talented artists and cutting-edge techniques to create an immersive experience unlike any other.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram;
When: May 17 and 18, 6.30 pm

04 Melodic voyage

Phoenix Marketcity is set to host Salim-Sulaiman, the dynamic duo who have contributed masterpieces to the Indian music landscape, live in concert.

Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield;
When: May 24, 7 pm

05 Comedy hub

Nirmal Pillai will be performing in 'South Side Samurai', an hour long stand-up show, where he will be bringing his YouTube persona live on stage.
Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar,
When: July 12, 8 pm

Brand ambassadors to promote public education

Department is looking for individuals willing to promote government schools free of cost, driven by social commitment rather than compensation, says School Education Minister

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UDISE+ report highlighted that compared to the 2022-23 academic year, government school enrolment has dropped by over 3.4 lakh students

In a strategic move to boost enrolment in government schools, the Department of School Education is contemplating appointing brand ambassadors to promote public schooling for the academic year 2025–26, which begins on May 29. This initiative aims to encourage parents to enrol their children in government schools amidst growing preference for private institutions. The brand ambassador will help communicate the strengths and advantages of government schools in a relatable and inspirational manner.

According to sources, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa has already discussed the proposal with the Chief Minister and is in the process of finalising a suitable personality for the role. Amongst the frontrunners for this ambassadorial role are Padma Shri awardee Harekala Hajabba, a humble fruit vendor who built a government school in his native Newpadpu village, and former Indian cricketer Anil Kumble, a respected figure across the state and country.

Madhu Bangarappa stated that the department is looking for individuals willing to promote government schools free of cost, driven by social commitment rather than compensation. "If government schools are to survive, the number of students enrolling must rise significantly. We are planning various initiatives and searching for brand ambassadors who will campaign voluntarily," he said.

Learning from the past

This would not be the department's first attempt at celebrity outreach. During the implementation of the Right to Education Act, actors Puneeth Rajkumar and Radhika Pandit were appointed as brand ambassadors and featured in campaigns promoting school enrolment. However, there have been no such appointments since then.

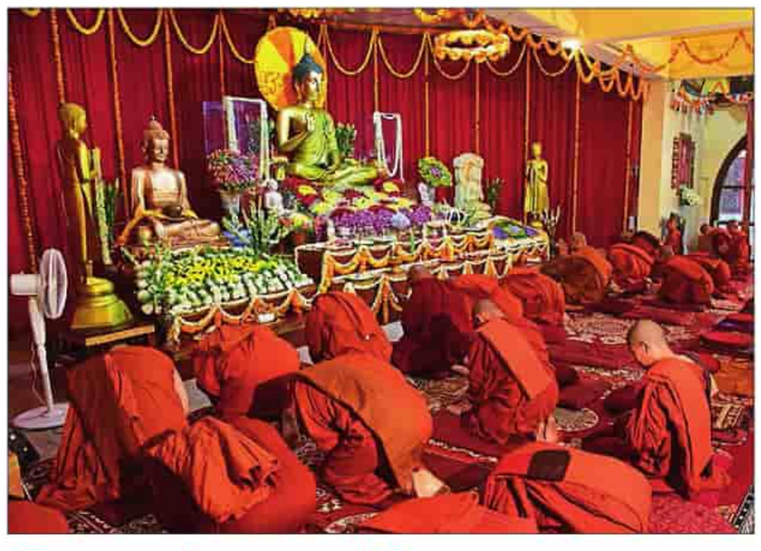
Massive drop in government school enrolment

The urgency for this initiative is highlighted by alarming data from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2023-24 report. Compared to the 2022-23 academic year, government school enrolment has dropped by over 3.4 lakh students — from 53,27,221 in 2022-23 to 49,85,661 in 2023-24. The report also revealed that 1,572 schools in Karnataka operate without a single teacher, while 7,821 schools have only one teacher managing all classes. Further, 1,078 schools reported zero student enrolment this year, while 2.74 lakh students are enrolled in single-teacher schools.

The Education Department is also planning a large-scale print and media campaign to publicise the facilities in government schools

Advertising campaign on the cards

To counter the slide in admissions and compete with private institutions that invest heavily in advertising, the Education Department is also planning a large-scale print and media campaign to publicise the facilities in government schools. These include free textbooks and uniforms, English-medium instruction, pre-primary classes, mid-day meals (including eggs 6 days a week), Ksheera Bhagya milk scheme, and the distribution of shoes and socks. Minister Bangarappa held discussions with the Department of Information and Public Relations to roll out this campaign in the coming weeks. In a parallel move, letters will be sent to MLAs of all 224 Assembly constituencies, urging them to encourage parents in their constituencies to consider government schools for their children's education.



Sacred serenity

Buddhist monks celebrate Buddha Jayanthi on Vaishakha Purnima at Maha Bodhi Society at Gandhinagar on Monday

Hotels continue to burden customers with service charge

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Despite regulations stating service charges cannot be enforced and must be voluntary, many restaurants continue to label them as mandatory on menus

Consumers in Bengaluru are raising concerns over restaurants and hotels continuing to levy service charges, despite clear central government guidelines stating that such charges are optional. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) had in 2022 clarified that service charges must not be imposed mandatorily and should only be paid at the discretion of the customer. However, this is reportedly being ignored by many establishments in the city.

Amidst rising food prices, including dairy products like khova, cheese, ghee, and butter, hotels and restaurants have also increased the cost of popular items like benne dosa and paneer-based dishes. While the cost surge itself is impacting middle and lower middle class consumers, mandatory service charges and GST being added to bills have become an additional burden. Some high-end restaurants and fine dining spots are accused of profiteering under the pretext of inflation. Adding to consumer woes, several users have pointed out that online food delivery platforms also inflate the final cost significantly. For instance, a meal originally priced at Rs 370 could cost Rs 460 after adding platform fees, delivery charges, and donations, leading to allegations of digital exploitation.

Although the Delhi High Court has ruled that service charges cannot be enforced and must be voluntary, many restaurants continue to label them as mandatory on menus. This disregard for legal orders has prompted consumer rights advocates to call for strict enforcement.

Say hello to the AI monitor

City police to launch AI-powered social media surveillance platform

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The Bengaluru police will launch an AI-powered platform to monitor social media activities in order to improve the police force's ability to track misleading content online and respond swiftly. This move comes even as to tackle the rising menace of digital crimes and online propaganda, the Karnataka police has set up dedicated social media monitoring desks in all stations across the state.

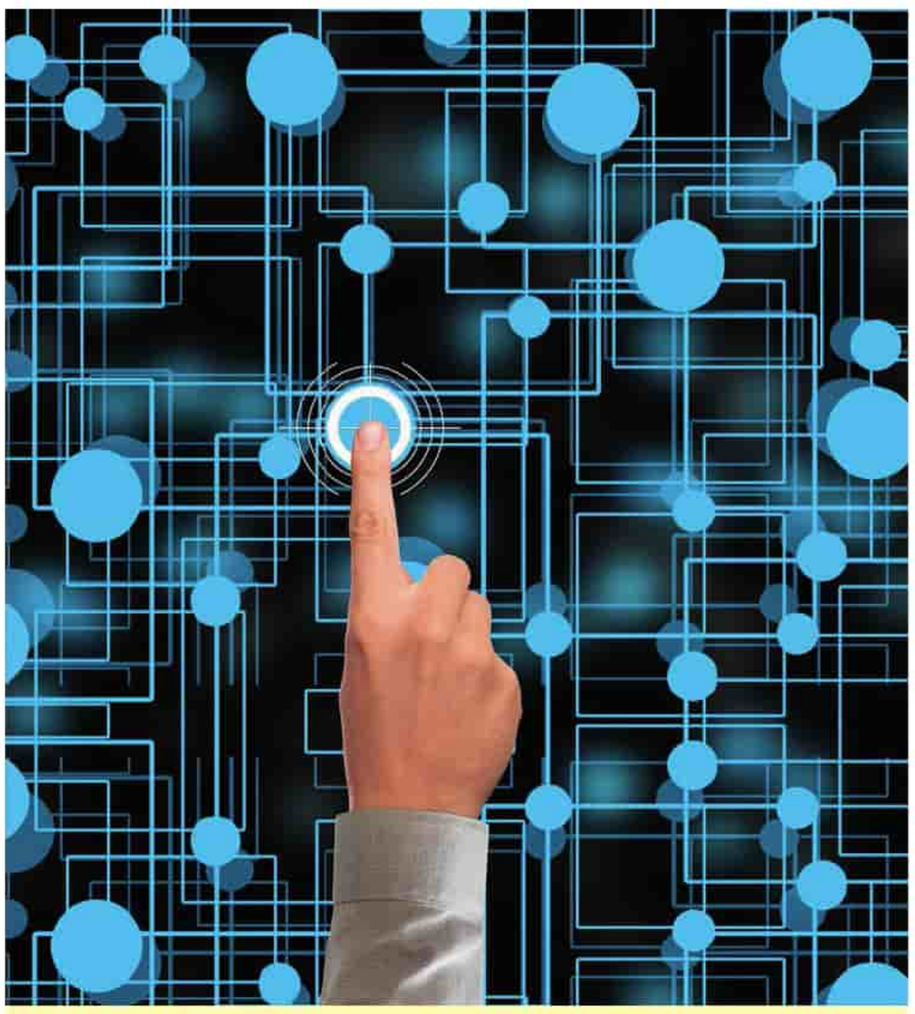
These units will track and counter misinformation, incitement of violence, and attempts to disrupt law and order.

The AI platform, which is currently in the tendering stage, will empower the police to proactively track and analyse digital chatter across social media and other online platforms such as X, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok, along with video-sharing platforms like YouTube and others.

"Once specific keywords are fed into the system, AI will identify communal, false, misleading, or threatening content with high accuracy," said a senior police officer.

Recently there have been many cases that have been registered for violating ethics and discipline to be maintained in social media platforms.

However this high-tech solution is designed not just to monitor, but also to understand the evolving dynamics of online conversations. During a session in the Legislative Council, Home Minister G Parameshwara drew attention to the evolving nature of crime, pointing out that while traditional crimes have seen a decline, cybercrimes are on the rise.



"It will help manage monitoring social media contents, understand online conversations, assess sentiment, identify key influencers or authors, and generate intelligence reports.

"In just the past year, around 22,000 cybercrime cases have been registered, a worrying trend," he remarked.

According to the tender document, the system will assist users in monitoring specific entities — be it brands, individuals, organisations, or topics — and offer campaign management tools, sentiment analysis, influencer mapping, and response recommendations.

Bengaluru city police commissioner B Dayanada explained, "It will help manage monitoring social media contents, understand online conversations, assess sentiment, identify key influencers or authors, and generate intelligence reports."

According to the tender specifications, the system will enable automated data collection from a wide range of Indian and global digital sources.

The platform will also monitor online forums, digital news outlets, and public community boards to ensure comprehensive coverage of digital conversations.

These AI-powered insights from the new platform will generate actionable recommendations and aid law enforcement in crafting timely responses to online interactions.

Officials noted that the platform is being developed with the ability of allowing it to analyse multiple data streams and adapt to the evolving demands of online monitoring in the future. It also has AI capabilities such as sentiment analysis, topic identification and author profiling.

According to the tender document, the platform will categorise content based on impact, engagement levels, and sentiment, enabling authorities to swiftly analyse online narratives and track their evolution.

A key feature is its customisable dashboard, which will allow police to visualise trends through interactive charts showing sentiment patterns, engagement metrics, and platform-wise comparisons. Reports will be dynamically generated and exportable in formats such as PDF.

The platform will also incorporate Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) capabilities to aid investigative work by enabling entity discovery, cross-platform linkages, and digital network visualisation—essential tools for identifying threats and tracking high-interest individuals.

One of the major challenges is tracing the original author of misleading or harmful content, a task that will be supported by advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) functions for author profiling and topic clustering.

Designed to be scalable, the system is expected to adapt to future requirements and expand with the evolving digital ecosystem.

Arson attack at doctor's residence; watchman hurt

An arson attack was reported in the early hours of Saturday at the home of a city-based doctor in Vijayanagar. Four unidentified miscreants, riding on two scooters, allegedly poured petrol inside the gate and set fire to the property around 12.20 am.

The fire injured the house's watchman, who sustained burns on both hands and his forehead. His face was reportedly swollen due to the blaze. A newly-purchased car parked in the premises suffered extensive rear-end damage, with an estimated loss of ₹2 lakh. Further, the front gate and parts of the interior were charred, causing an additional loss of ₹45 lakh.

The complainant, a doctor residing at the address for years, stated that this is not the first such attack on his family. He said his son's pharmaceutical company, located in the same area, was similarly targeted—its office door set on fire by two unidentified persons — in July 2024. An FIR was filed at Govindarajanagar Police Station. **BMB**

Two parked cars gutted in late-night blaze

A fire broke out in the early hours of Monday, destroying two parked cars in Valmiki Nagar, within the limits of the Byadarahalli police station. Around 1.30 am, one of the vehicles suddenly caught fire while parked along the roadside.

According to eyewitnesses, flames rapidly engulfed the car, and the intense heat caused a second car parked nearby to catch fire as well. Passersby who noticed the fire promptly alerted the fire department and police.

Firefighters rushed to the scene and managed to douse the flames before they could spread further or cause injury. However, both vehicles were significantly damaged.

Preliminary reports suggest that the fire may have originated from a spark in the first car's battery, though officials have not ruled out other causes. No casualties were reported in the incident. The Byadarahalli police have registered a case. **BMB**

Plan to abolish post of Director at ESIS ruffles feathers

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The Karnataka Labour Department is thinking of doing away with the post of Director and managing the Directorate of Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) Medical Services with an IAS officer. This raises the question as to why Karnataka is contemplating this when all other state governments in the country have the post of Director.

It is said that this could be because internal conflicts among officers of similar cadre have compounded the operational inefficiencies, hindering timely and decisive execution of critical tasks.

The Employees State Insurance Medical Services Cadre and Recruitment Rules 2024 proposed to abolish the existing post of Director and run Directorate of Employees State Insurance Scheme Medical Services by creating a post of Commissioner.

It is proposed to appoint an IAS officer as the Commissioner instead of one of the senior specialists who have worked as deputy directors.

One more reason being cited is that the management of an annual fund of Rs 1,000 crore, secured from both Central and State allocations, necessitates robust administrative acumen and seamless coordination across diverse governmental echelons.

"Unfortunately, the internal promoter has faced challenges in effectively managing the ESIS, primarily due to a lack of prior experience in engaging with Central authorities," the Cadre and Recruitment Rules 2024 read.

One of the remarks mentioned in the rules is that the appointment of an IAS officer is imperative and IAS officers, with their extensive experience and authority, possess the ability to take decisive actions and ensure cohesive collaboration among stakeholders at both the Central and State levels, irrespective of rank or cadre.

"The leadership will provide the necessary impetus to streamline fund utilisation, enhance inter-departmental coordination, and achieve the scheme's objectives efficiently and effectively," it read.

This proposal has not gone down well with the ESIS Officers and Employees Federation that has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Labour Minister Santosh Lad against the plan to abolish the post of Director. It has also sent a letter to the Director General of Employees State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, requesting to intervene in the matter.

"All other states in the country have the Directorate for ESI Medical Services and ESI Corporation issues the routine directions to the Directorate of the State to implement the ESI Corporation guidelines on medical services.

The State Medical Education Department and Health and Family Welfare Department have a director to look after its health centres and hospitals.

But it is unfortunate that the government has decided to abolish the Director's post by appointing an IAS officer as the Commissioner. We have no objection in establishing the Commissionerate and appointing an IAS officer as its Commissioner on par with Health and Family Welfare Department and Medical Education without abolishing the post of ESI Director," the memorandum read.

The Directorate of ESIS Medical Services has around 125 dispensaries and seven hospitals in the state.

'Not fit for use': Villagers sound alarm over HN Valley water

Treated water from Hebbal–Nagawara Valley project sparks rural distress, with citing livestock illness, skin conditions, and groundwater fears in affected districts

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Use of treated water comes into question after villagers' concerns

Once considered a solution to water scarcity, the treated water flowing out of Bengaluru is now becoming a source of growing concern in surrounding districts. Concerns over the quality of water supplied through the Hebbal-Nagawara Valley project have triggered widespread unease among residents, farmers, and environmentalists, prompting District In-charge Minister Dr M C Sudhakar to order a comprehensive inspection and testing of the water.

Multiple complaints have emerged from villagers in the vicinity of the HN Valley water canals and tanks, including reduced milk yield in cattle, increased cases of skin-related diseases, and a noticeable decline in fish population in local lakes. Some villagers have even linked the use of this water to fertility issues and disruptions to agricultural activities.

> **"Brushing off concerns is not the solution. Authorities must verify each complaint thoroughly and take corrective action. If ignored, everyone will be held accountable in the future."**
>
> –Dr M C Sudhakar, District In-charge Minister

Despite official claims that water tests are conducted periodically, locals remain unconvinced. The water from HN Valley, primarily meant to replenish groundwater, is said to be unfit for animal consumption, as livestock and wildlife often avoid it. In several places, water flowing along roadside canals remains untouched by any animals, further fuelling speculation about its purity. Adding to the concerns are the open borewells drilled near the lakes in the HN Valley belt. Locals fear that contaminated water from the valley is seeping into underground sources, potentially affecting both drinking and irrigation water supplies.

"Don't dismiss the complaints"

Minister Dr Sudhakar emphasised the importance of addressing every grievance with seriousness. "Brushing off concerns is not the solution. Authorities must verify each complaint thoroughly and take corrective action. If ignored, everyone will be held accountable in the future," he said.

MLA B N Ravikumar from Shidlaghatta called the HN Valley project a "disaster" for the region. He warned that the situation would worsen if water from the Ettinahole project is not released soon, noting that several areas in his constituency are already facing severe consequences.

Residents' experiences

Many villages in the affected region report an increase in skin conditions among residents. In addition, farmers allege that cattle fed on fodder grown using HN Valley water are producing less milk. While the Minor Irrigation Department has installed boards stating that the water is not meant for direct use, enforcement appears inconsistent. In light of the serious allegations, the Chikkaballapur district administration has been instructed to collect water samples from suspected areas and conduct precise laboratory testing. Departments involved — including Animal Husbandry, Irrigation, and Health — are expected to carry out thorough field inspections in the coming days.

Beat the heat: Robin Hood Army serves cold relief to outdoor workers

With 50 litres of buttermilk and zero plastic use, volunteers help cool down city vendors and drivers during city's scorching temperature

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Robin Hood Army serves buttermilk to vendors, beating the heat with steel tumblers and smiles

As temperatures soar this summer, the Robin Hood Army has stepped in to provide relief to those working in the heat with its Beat the Heat initiative. Volunteers used steel tumblers to distribute buttermilk, avoiding the use of plastic and promoting sustainability.

The program aims to offer roadside vendors, auto drivers, and other outdoor workers a refreshing drink to help them stay cool during the hottest months.

Recently, Robin Hood Army volunteers gathered in the city to distribute buttermilk to vegetable and fruit vendors, auto drivers, and others enduring the summer sun. A team of 12 dedicated volunteers participated in the event, ensuring that those in need received cold, refreshing drinks.

> **This initiative reflects ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable communities during extreme summer heat**

Leading the efforts were Seema Rao, City Representative, and Younes, South Chapter Representative, who, along with other volunteers, distributed 50 liters of buttermilk across various roadside locations. The initiative, which ran from 11 am to 2 pm, was met with gratitude and joy from vendors and workers alike. Both young and old enjoyed the drink, appreciating the Robin Hood Army's service on a scorching day.

"We have been organising similar programs during the summer. We distributed buttermilk at Jayanagar 9th Block last Saturday. Next Saturday, we will distribute buttermilk in another area as part of the Beat the Heat initiative," said Seema Rao.

The Robin Hood Army is a pan-India, volunteer-driven organisation committed to minimising food waste and serving hungry citizens. As a zero-fund organisation, its members rely on their time and efforts to create meaningful change in local communities. The Beat the Heat initiative is just another example of the Army's dedication to supporting those in need.

"We're organising a book rebinding program next Sunday. The books will later be distributed to students from economically disadvantaged families," added Younes.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Neglected road
Kithiganur

The roads in Kithiganur Halehalli have remained in a deplorable state for over 11 years, with no signs of repair or development.

Footpath encroachment
Malleswaram

A newly opened bank on 5th Cross, Malleswaram has taken over the footpath with decorative lamp posts and scooter parking, leaving no space for pedestrians.

Bridge blockade
Benniganahalli

Commuters navigating peak-hour traffic near Benniganahalli Metro now face a new hurdle—buses parked along an entire bridge lane, worsening congestion at this already infamous traffic choke point.

Masked intruder loots pub, flees before police arrive

An unidentified man, allegedly armed with a pistol, broke into Geometry Brewery and Kitchen near Malleswaram in the early hours of Monday and fled with Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 in cash.

The break-in occurred between 3.30 am and 4.00 am, when the suspect forced open the back door, disabled CCTV cameras, and headed to the brewery office on the third floor where the cash was kept. He is believed to have worn a mask and gloves to avoid identification.

The security guard, who claimed the intruder showed him a pistol, immediately alerted the 112 emergency helpline and locked the doors from outside. A night patrol team along with the Quick Response Team (QRT) rushed to the spot and conducted a thorough search. However, the accused had already fled, and his escape route remains unknown.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Saidulu Adavath visited the spot and reviewed the situation. Investigating officers suspect insider involvement, noting that the intruder appeared to have prior knowledge of the premises, its security layout, and entry-exit points.

Based on the complaint filed by the management, Subramanya Nagar police have registered a case of house break and theft and are investigating further.

Labourer held for hoax bomb call on KK express

The Kalaburagi railway police on Monday nabbed a 33-year-old labourer from Uttar Pradesh for making a hoax bomb threat to the Solapur police in the early hours.

The caller claimed that a bomb had been planted on the KK Express and would explode. Following protocol, the railway police conducted a thorough inspection of the train at Wadi station, only to confirm it was a false alarm.

Based on a complaint, police traced the call to Deep Singh, a mason working in Guntakal, who was travelling in the general compartment from his hometown. Investigations revealed that Singh had a heated argument with a co-passenger over a petty issue, and in a fit of anger, made the hoax call from his phone before switching it off.

The incident led to a major disruption in the train's schedule, with passengers forced to deboard as bomb disposal squads carried out checks.

Police tracked Singh using call detail records and booked him under Sections 351(4) and 353(1)(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). He has been remanded to judicial custody as further investigation is underway.

Trash turns Indiranagar stretch into an eyesore

With waste accumulating regularly, area has become serious health hazard, posing risks to pedestrians and surrounding community, say residents

The stretch between the traffic junction and Dr BR Ambedkar College on 7th Main Road near ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, where persistent garbage accumulation has become a problem

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The stretch between the traffic junction and Dr BR Ambedkar College on 7th Main Road near ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, has become a persistent blackspot in Bengaluru East. Despite efforts by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities to maintain cleanliness, the area continues to accumulate garbage and debris.

The primary issue lies along the compound wall of ESI Hospital, where waste is dumped daily on the footpath-cum-drain. Even though pourakarmikas clear the garbage regularly, the spot returns to its neglected state almost immediately, making it a recurring problem.

Residents and pedestrians have complained to the BBMP authorities about the black spot and the pathetic condition of the footpath on both sides of the road but in vain. "The stretch between the primary storm water drain and the traffic junction near the ESI Hospital is in a worse condition. Though the stretch was developed twice within a few years, the footpath is not pedestrian friendly. We find one or the other agency digging the road in the name of development," said Cambridge Layout Residents Welfare Association President Srinivas Murthy.

Residents have raised concerns that the drain-cum-footpath has effectively turned into a mini garbage segregation center, with waste accumulating regularly. They describe the blackspot as both an eyesore and a serious health hazard, posing risks to pedestrians and the surrounding community. "The people engaged in segregation of waste are dumping waste into the drain thus choking the drain. One can find a mattress in the drain. I appeal to the authorities concerned to keep the place clean and neat by relocating the mini garbage segregation centre," said Ravi L, a pedestrian.

Pedestrians have expressed frustration over the BBMP authorities, including marshals, failing to prevent waste dumping on the footpath

Pedestrians have expressed frustration over the BBMP authorities, including marshals, failing to prevent waste dumping on the footpath. "I want the BBMP authorities to depute marshals to penalise those dumping waste. Let the authorities install CCTV cameras on the spot to keep a vigil on people dumping waste on the footpath," said Padmini S, a resident.

Ravi Kumar, Assistant Executive Engineer (Solid Waste Management) said that he would take measures to keep the place clean. "I will visit the spot tomorrow. The problem will be fixed," he said.

IN BRIEF

Kannada TV actor Rakesh Poojary dies at 34

Television actor and comedian Rakesh Poojary, winner of Season 3 of reality show Comedy Kiladigalu, died due to sudden cardiac arrest at a pre-wedding ceremony in Nitte near Udupi, family sources said on Monday.

He died on late Sunday night at the age of 34, they said.

Poojary collapsed during a mehendi function and was declared dead shortly thereafter.

A native of Karkala in Udupi district, Poojary was the son of Dinkar Poojary and Shambhavi. He had garnered popularity for his role in the Kannada television serial Hitler Kalyana and had also acted in several other television and film projects.

The news of his untimely demise has shocked the Kannada television and film fraternity, with several actors and industry colleagues expressing their condolences.

His last rites will be performed in his hometown of Karkala, family members said. **PTI**

Five killed in two road accidents

In two separate tragic road accidents on Monday, five people lost their lives in Chitradurga district and Hosakote town near Bengaluru, Karnataka.

In the first incident, three people, including a woman, were killed in a head-on collision between an Innova car and a truck near the Kanive Anjaneya temple on the National Highway near Chitradurga. The deceased have been identified as 34-year-old Sunita, 29-year-old Shyam, and 35-year-old Shivu.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the victims were travelling from Chitradurga towards Holalkere. The impact of the collision left the car mangled beyond recognition. Holalkere police rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies to the Holalkere mortuary.

In another incident in the early hours, two persons were killed and another was critically injured in a collision between a tempo and a two-wheeler at Chikkahullur village in Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district.

According to police, an overspeeding tempo hit the motorcycle, resulting in the tragedy. Three people were riding the two-wheeler. Two of them died on the spot, while the third sustained serious injuries and was shifted to a private hospital. His condition is reported to be critical.

The tempo driver fled the scene after the incident. The Hosakote Traffic Police have registered a case and launched a manhunt for the absconding driver. **IANS**

BWSSB assumes control of 2,900 borewells from BBMP

Unified command to resolve billing, maintenance, accountability issues

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Borewell takeover adds ₹23 crore to BWSSB's yearly expenses

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has taken over the maintenance of 2,900 borewells spread across 110 villages that now fall under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. These borewells were previously managed by BBMP and form part of a larger network of approximately 6,000 such water sources. The remaining borewells are expected to be handed over to BWSSB by the end of the month.

With the complete handover, BWSSB anticipates an additional annual expenditure of around 23.28 crore. At present, the board manages 11,490 operational borewells across Bengaluru. Once the takeover is complete, BWSSB will be responsible for maintaining over 14,000 borewells.

Water supply statistics

Currently, the BWSSB supplies 2,225 million litres per day (MLD) of Cauvery water to the city, including the newly added villages. In addition to this, groundwater sourced from borewells contributes another 800 MLD. The ongoing Cauvery Stage V project is expected to significantly augment the water supply, potentially making the city self-reliant in terms of drinking water in the coming years.

BWSSB has taken over maintenance of 2,900 BBMP borewells and will receive more, adding ₹23.28 crore annually to its ₹44 crore maintenance cost for 11,490 existing borewells, aiming to streamline management and resolve inter-agency disputes

Maintenance costs and strategy

The BWSSB currently oversees 12,311 borewells across Bengaluru, of which 11,490 are functional. These are distributed across various zones 2,193 in the East, 4,495 in the West, 3,449 in the South, and 2,174 in other areas. The board currently spends about 44 crores annually on borewell maintenance, which translates to an average of 38,300 per borewell. With the additional 3,100 borewells expected from BBMP, the maintenance cost is projected to increase by another 23.38 crore per year.

Last summer, in response to severe water shortages, BWSSB drilled 313 new borewells at a cost of 28.54 crore. However, the board has since decided to halt the drilling of new borewells and instead rely on its existing infrastructure, including the incoming units from BBMP. Officials say this shift is aimed at reducing the city's dependence on groundwater.

Resolution to inter-agency conflicts

Previously, both BWSSB and BBMP were managing over 17,000 borewells collectively over 11,000 by BWSSB and the rest by BBMP. This overlap created confusion, especially concerning who was responsible for electricity bills and maintenance. BBMP would often claim certain borewells weren't under its control, while BWSSB would deny ownership as well, leading to unpaid power bills and disconnection risks.

To avoid further complications, BWSSB has asked BBMP to clear all pending dues up to April before transferring the assets. The board has also made it clear that defunct borewells will not be accepted. Additionally, BBMP has been requested to provide a list of inactive borewells so that BWSSB can coordinate with BESCOM to disconnect power supply to those units.

BBMP floats bio-mining tenders

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After years of being burdened by massive piles of waste, the possibility of clearing decades-old garbage from various landfills in Bengaluru seems to be in sight. The BBMP has initiated a bio-mining process to tackle the city's waste problem, with the help of bio-remediation techniques and a dedicated waste management fund.

Several areas in Bengaluru Mandur, Doddabidarakallu, Subbarayanapalya, Mavallipura, and Bingipura have long been home to massive dumps of untreated waste. These landfills, some of which date back decades, have contributed to rising methane emissions and severely polluted surroundings. Now, they are being targeted under a renewed bio-mining initiative aimed at safely processing and disposing of legacy waste.

According to a BMRCL official, the bio-mining effort is expected to cost between 50–55 crore across several sites. At Mandur alone, an infamous dump yard since 2014 7 lakh metric tons of waste have already been processed, with plans underway to tackle another 10 lakh metric tons. The estimated cost of processing one ton through bio-mining stands at 843.

Projects are also progressing at sites such as Belahalli and Mavallipura, where bio-remediation will extract methane to convert waste into usable resources like compressed natural gas (CNG). Proposals have been submitted to the government, with funding expected from the Clean India Mission 2.0. Officials say the initiative could offer long-term relief from the city's mounting waste crisis.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Srirangapatna set for major revamp under new master plan

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Srirangapatna, the historic town renowned for its forts and monuments, is all set for a transformation as the local municipal council moves ahead with a comprehensive master plan to develop both its urban and rural surroundings. The initiative, called the "Srirangapatna Master Plan," is currently in its final stages of preparation.

To preserve the town's natural and historical character, the plan proposes a 50-meter buffer zone along the River Cauvery and restricts development within 300 meters of protected monuments. Officials say this measure is intended to protect the river ecosystem and safeguard the area's cultural heritage from encroachment or damage due to unregulated development.

As part of the expansion strategy, residential zones are being planned along the old Wellesley Bridge Road and the Bengaluru–Mysuru Highway, stretching up to Bannimantap in Kirangur. The goal is to guide future growth and prevent unchecked commercial or industrial activity near residential neighbourhoods. Road width regulations have also been outlined: 9 meters for residential areas, 12 to 18 meters for commercial zones, and 18 to 24 meters for industrial corridors.

With the help of digital mapping, the town's jurisdiction has been revised from 8.67 sq. km to 10.93 sq. km. Despite being an island town housing 24 state- and centrally-protected monuments, Srirangapatna has seen only limited growth. As per the 2011 Census, the population was 25,061. Fourteen years later, that figure has grown by just 2%, reaching approximately 28,000.

Buffer zones proposed to protect River Cauvery and heritage monuments

"I have instructed the preparation of a master plan that ensures the River Cauvery and heritage monuments are preserved

–AB Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, MLA

Encroachments and unauthorized land conversions have been a growing concern, especially in areas under the Srirangapatna Town limits, Ganjam, and Kirangur Gram Panchayats. Many of these residential pockets lack basic amenities due to haphazard development. Authorities believe that the new master plan will help address these gaps and bring about more organized urban expansion.

MLA AB Ramesh Bandisiddegowda said, "I have instructed the preparation of a master plan that ensures the River Cauvery and heritage monuments are preserved. Once implemented, residents will receive basic amenities like drinking water and electricity without additional development charges. The town will also be beautified."

However, ML Dinesh, president-in-charge of the municipal council, raised concerns about the process. "It is ineffective if the planning firm merely prepares the master plan from Bengaluru using Google Maps. They must visit the site, conduct physical surveys, consult with the public, and design a plan that considers both benefits and challenges," he said.

'Walking away with no regrets, only a smile'

A peek into Kohli's mind days before Test retirement

Virat Kohli's retirement is a huge loss to Test cricket but his announcement on Monday was not entirely surprising. Perhaps the microscopic attention "became too much" for the superstar towards the fag end of his career in the longest format. Kohli was credited with single-handedly keeping Test cricket alive with his exceptional commitment to the format and now expect the 'dying' ODI cricket to regain relevance with the Indian superstar only available for that form of the game.

Inset: Virat Kohli, along with his wife and actress Anushka Sharma spotted at the Airport after announcing his retirement from Test cricket, in Mumbai, Monday

Though Kohli had an exciting challenge ahead of him in the five-Test series in England, the end seemed near for India's most successful Test captain. In his retirement statement, Kohli insisted it was the right decision and he was walking away with no regrets and only a smile on his face.

Considering his exemplary fitness levels, on display in the IPL where he has shown remarkable consistency, Kohli could have easily carried on for at least one more season.

In a podcast with his IPL team Royal Challengers Bengaluru last week, Kohli gave an insight into his mind when asked about giving up India captaincy in T20s and Tests. His detailed conversation with the host also gave a sneek peak into what may have been on his mind before Monday's announcement.

"At one point, it (attention) did become tough for me because there was just too much happening in my career. I was captaining India for a period of 7-8 years. I captained RCB for nine years. There were expectations on me from a batting perspective every game that I played," said Kohli on 'RCB Bold Diaries' podcast.

"I didn't have this sense that the attention was off me. If it wasn't captaincy, it would be batting. I was exposed to it 24x7. It did get very tough on me, and it did get too much in the end."

Known to give his all every time he steps on the field, Kohli has realised over time that the game is just a part of his life. With that mindset, he stepped down from captaincy, and even took a one month break in 2022. More recently, he moved to the UK to be away from the constant glare. "I stepped down (from captaincy) because I felt like if I've decided I want to be in this place, I need to be happy. "I need to have a space in my life where I can just come and play my cricket without being judged, without being looked at as what are you going to do this season and what's going to happen now," Kohli said.

Even when is not in the best of forms, Kohli remains the biggest crowd puller in the game. He single-handedly lifted Test cricket out of doldrums.

He drew close to 15,000 fans to an otherwise neglected Ranji Trophy game that was witnessed in January this year. Kohli loved Test cricket but what the brought out the best in him was ODIs. With the next World Cup a couple of years away, his fans would be hoping that he carries on at least till then. In the RCB podcast, Kohli also talked about when exactly a player would feel "done" in his book. "What happens when you're young is you feel like, if I have scored X amount of runs by the time I'm this age or whatever, things will ease out. It never happens like that. And that is the marker actually. "When you stop feeling that nervousness or that anticipation of how things are going to unfold is when people say that you're done," he explained. —PTI

On a high note

Rs 16 crore: Is how much investors gained in a single day riding on the cheers of the understanding for a ceasefire between India and Pakistan

Sensex and Nifty gained a massive nearly **4** per cent in a bull rally seen after February **2021.**

This is the best single-day performance by Indian stock markets in **4** years.

Big gains

At the close of trade, Sensex soared **2,975.43** points, or 3.74 per cent, to end at **82,429.90,** while Nifty jumped **916.70** points, or **3.82** per cent, to finish at 2**4,924.70.**

This was the second-biggest percentage gain for both indices in the last four years, with the only larger rally recorded on February **1, 2021,** when the indices rose over **4.7** per cent. —PTI

AROUNDTHEWORLD

US-China: 90-day trade truce

U.S. stocks are leaping Monday after China and the United States announced a 90-day truce in their trade war. Each of the world's two largest economies agreed to take down most of its tariffs against the other, which economists warned could start a recession and create shortages on U.S. store shelves.

The S&P 500 was up 2.4% in morning trading and back within 5.6% of its all-time high set in February. The index has been roaring higher since falling nearly 20% below that mark last month on hopes that President Donald Trump will lower his tariffs after reaching trade deals with other countries. It's back above where it was on April 2, Trump's "Liberation Day," when he announced stiff worldwide tariffs that ignited worries about a potentially self-inflicted recession.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 923 points, or 2.2%, as of 10:40 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 3.3% higher. AP

PKK Kurdish militant group disband

The PKK Kurdish militant group announced Monday that it is disbanding and renouncing armed conflict as part of a new peace initiative with Turkey, ending four decades of hostilities. The decision by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which promises to put an end to one of the longest insurgencies in the Middle East and could have significant impact in Turkey, Syria and Iraq, was announced by the Firat News Agency, a media outlet close to the group.

It comes days after the PKK convened a party congress in northern Iraq. In February, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group to convene a congress and formally decide to disarm. The call by Ocalan marked a pivotal step toward ending the conflict. AP

Hamas to release soldier

An American-Israeli soldier held hostage for over 19 months in the Gaza Strip is likely to be released Monday, Hamas said, in a goodwill gesture for the Trump administration that could lay the groundwork for a new ceasefire with Israel. Edan Alexander was taken from his military base in southern Israel during Hamas' cross-border attack on Oct. 7, 2023, which set off the war in Gaza. His release would be the first since Israel shattered an eight-week ceasefire with Hamas in March, unleashing fierce strikes on Gaza that have killed hundreds.

Israel has promised to intensify its offensive, including by seizing the territory and displacing much of its population again. Days before the ceasefire ended, Israel blocked all imports from entering the Palestinian enclave, deepening a humanitarian crisis and sparking warnings about the risk of famine if the blockade isn't lifted. Israel says the steps are meant to pressure Hamas to accept a ceasefire agreement on Israel's terms. AP

OPERATION SINDOOR

Dedicated to mothers, sisters, daughters: PM Modi

In his first televised address since India launched cruise missile strikes on terror facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday declared that Operation Sindoor was not merely a military campaign, but a "doctrinal change and a policy against terror". Highlighting the significance of the operation, PM Modi said: "Operation Sindoor has not ended; it will be a continuing and decisive action against state-sponsored terror attacks." "This is a new normal. India will strike at the heart of terror decisively if our citizens are attacked," he said.

The PM also took a firm stand against threats of escalation from Pakistan. "Nuclear blackmail will not work against India," he said. Modi dedicated the operation to the women of India who have suffered from terrorism. "I dedicate Operation Sindoor to the mothers, sisters and daughters of this nation... Operation Sindoor is not just a name, it is a reflection of people's sentiments," he said. IANS

Concerns over cyber attack against Misri

CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas On Monday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah, expressing deep concern over the recent cyber attacks against Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family members following his articulation of India's official stance after the operation.

In his letter, Brittas said, "I write this letter with anguish and grave concern regarding the recent spate of vicious and orchestrated cyber attacks unleashed upon Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family members. These coordinated online assaults, far from being isolated acts of malice, reveal a disturbing pattern of digital defamation aimed at discrediting the very custodians of our constitutional and administrative order." ANI

Villagers near LoC head back home

Residents of villages close to the LoC who were forced to flee due to heavy shelling by the Pakistani military started returning home on Monday.

They started their journey back to their villages after bomb disposal squads cleared the residential areas of any leftover or unexploded shells, officials said.

"We are happy that a ceasefire has been reached between the two countries. We are also hopeful that Pakistan will not resort to such activities again," said Arshad Ahmad, a resident of the Kamalkote area in Uri.

Some residents praised the army and other security forces for taking care of them. "The Indian Army has come out with flying colours. It had to respond and it did that well. They (army personnel) are our heroes, they always help us. Even now, when we are going back to Uri, they checked the place thoroughly (for shells)," said Mehak Khursheed, a resident of Uri near the Line of Control (LoC). PTI

Video of man being questioned for entering temple gains traction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members of all local communities accompanied Swaminatha back to the Sri Ramanjaneya Temple, where he was allowed to offer prayers. The police have confirmed that an FIR has been registered, and further investigation is ongoing.

This marks the third reported incident of caste-based discrimination in Karnataka this year, following similar cases in Ramanagara and Mandya districts. Despite directives issued by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Muzrai) Department in 2023, cases of restricted temple entry based on caste continue to surface, particularly in rural areas.

In 2023, the Karnataka government responded to repeated reports of caste-based exclusion, especially involving Dalits, by directing all Muzrai-managed temples to ensure equal access for all devotees. The department warned of strict action against any form of caste-based discrimination and mandated the installation of signboards at temple premises affirming that people of all castes are welcome.

However, sources indicate that in some villages, including Kavanadala, different communities continue to frequent separate temples. Following the recent incident and the peace meeting, authorities have described the resolution as constructive and aimed at preventing future occurrences.

India has ample food stocks, says Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

Allaying fears of shortage of essential commodities, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said the country has ample food stocks and warned against hoarding, black marketing and creating artificial shortages.

He also urged people not to panic or rush to the markets to purchase food grains, due to rumours in the wake of the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

"We have an abundant quantity of food grains. We have a buffer stock sufficient for a minimum of 1 to 1.5 years. We have given instructions to states from our department to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing. We have given clear warning against creating artificial scarcity," the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there are enough quantities of pulses and cooking oil, and there is no need for people to create rush for any reason, as there is a big system in place.

"Our production of rice, wheat and other food grains is huge, so there is no need for anyone to worry. If anyone indulges in practices like black marketing, the state governments should take strict action," he added.

Noting that currently a "ceasefire" is in place between India and Pakistan, the union minister said, it has been made clear that India will treat any future act of terror on its soil as an "act of war" and to respond accordingly.

"Our production of rice, wheat and other food grains is huge, so there is no need for anyone to worry. If anyone indulges in practices like black marketing, the state govt should take strict action

"We will not consider terrorism as an isolated activity and it will be considered as an act of war," he added.

Pointing out that the central government has called all party meetings at every level following the Pahalgam terror attack and information has been shared with opposition parties from time to time, Joshi said the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry will be able to say on the demand for a special parliament session and other things.

He further stated that during the operation in the last three to four days, the Indian armed forces have given a major blow to terrorism infrastructure, terrorists, terror hideouts and training camps, and their supporters.

Regarding the opposition's criticism over the USA's mediation for the ceasefire announcement, the union minister said the Government of India had already made a statement in this regard, and has stated clearly that the understanding was following a call from the Pakistan's Director General Military Operation (DGMO) to India's DGMO, and there were certain preconditions.

"No senior ministers in the central government have made any political statement in contact with the current situation. I appeal to the opposition, the country should remain united," he added. **PTI**

'All IPL franchises to call their foreign players to return'

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has informed the ten Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises to call all their foreign players to return to India, as a decision on the resumption of the 18th edition of the cash-rich league is coming soon, according to BCCI sources.

Last week, the BCCI announced that the remainder of the tournament was suspended for a week, citing the cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. After the cessation of hostilities on Saturday, reports suggested IPL is on the verge of resumption.

BCCI sources on Monday revealed that the tournament is close to returning to cricket fans' routine lives and said, "BCCI have informed all IPL franchises to call all their foreign players to return as a decision on the resumption of IPL is coming soon."

After tensions escalated between the two neighbouring nations, the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala was called off midway through the first innings last Thursday. Spectators were informed of the cancellation and asked to vacate the premises, while both teams were escorted back to their hotel.

According to recent developments, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad have been picked as the venues for the remaining 16 fixtures for the 18th season. Recently, a BCCI source revealed a possibility of a change in the venue for the final.

Originally, the final was set to take place on May 25 at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata. **ANI**

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I, Mohan R/o Mruthyunjaya Nagar,6th Main, Ranebennur, Haveri have changed my minor daughter's name from Rashmi M Mallapur to Rashmi Mallapur.

I, Yogesh H S/O, Hanumanthappa R/o #13 3rd Cross Rajeshwarinagar , Laggere, Peenya Small Industries Bangalore 560058 have changed my name to Yogesha H for all purposes.

I, Shamir M Shaikh, R/at No. 136, 9th Cross, 5th Main, Pilla reddy Nagar, Banaswadi, Bang alore-560043, here by declare that my father correct name is MEHBOOB SHAIKH, vide affidavit dt: 10.05.2025 before notary B. Seshagiri, Bangalore

I Aakanksha Sanjeev Waghmare, R/o E-801, Orchid Whitefield, Hagaduru Main Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560066, have changed my name to Akanksha Sanjeev Waghmare.

I, Raghavendra M Devadas R/O No 343, 3rd floor, DS Max Stavam Apartment, Harohalli, Yelahanka, Blr-64 changed my name from Raghavendra Devadas to Raghavendra M Devadas all further purposes. (M full form is Manjunath).

I, Rahman Tabassum D/O, Mohammad Liyaquate Ali Rahman R/o H. No. 18, Sochal Road, Sixmile, Khanapara, Dispur, Kamrup Metro, Assam-781022 have changed my name to Tabassum Rahman for all purposes

I, Madhu Sudhan G R/o 41, 3rd Cross, Water Tank,Jakk - arayanakere, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore 560020 have changed my minor son's name from Calvin Noah M to Rakshan M for all purposes.

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Doctors notice shifts in how illness is presenting this time around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leading to a surge in the cases," said an official from BBMP's Health Department.While the total number of cases has reduced compared with last year, it is increasing after the April rainfall.

While 55 cases were registered in March, the number went up to 130 in April and 88 in May already. Out of the 88 cases, 65 were reported between May 4 and May 10.

Mahadevapura and Bengaluru East are the worst-hit areas in the city. Out of the total 543 cases (January to May 10) reported in the city, 155 have been reported from Mahadevapura and 108 from Bengaluru East.

"These are the areas with high construction activities. Construction sites are hotspots for mosquito breeding. Not only is a large amount of water stored at these sites, but the structures under construction are cured daily, leading to a conducive environment for mosquitoes to breed," said the official.

Steep fines

BBMP says it is imposing a fine of Rs 4,000 in case of mosquito breeding detected at active or abandoned construction sites in the city. Households with mosquito breeding spots are being fined Rs 800, and Rs 2,000 is being imposed on commercial establishments, including offices, colleges, healthcare facilities, supermarkets, cinema theatres, etc.

The department is also coordinating with other agencies and BBMP departments such as Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Horticulture and Solid Waste Management, to control dengue cases.

Moreover, the number of Ovitrap pots has also been increased to more than 1,000 per zone, leading to control of mosquito breeding and the spread of diseases.

Since dengue cases are on the rise, especially after April showers, doctors are noticing a few indefinite shifts this year in how the illness is presenting. While the core symptoms include high fever, intense body aches, and fatigue remain common, gastro symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and rashes are other symptoms.

Experts say precaution is the best protection.

"Avoid mosquito bites by using repellents, wearing long-sleeved clothing, and ensuring windows and doors are well-screened. Empty standing water from containers, pots, and coolers, mosquitoes breed in even tiny amounts of stagnant water. If someone has a fever during the monsoon or post-monsoon period, it is wise to get tested early rather than wait," said Dr. Swati Rajagopal, Consultant - Infectious Disease & Travel Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore

Healthcare experts say hydration is the key. They caution against self-medication, especially with painkillers, as they can increase bleeding risk.

HEALTH TIP: Prefer home-cooked food and choose healthier options while eating out or ordering in

Feeling winded after minimal exertion or struggling to catch your breath while at rest could indicate an underlying heart issue

SMART ENOUGH FOR YOU?

Here are 5 things smartwatch users should keep in mind

Smartwatches and other wearable devices can feel almost magical. Strap on a Fitbit, Apple Watch or Samsung Gear and you're suddenly presented with a stream of data generated by – and about – your body: step counts, heart rate, blood oxygen level, calories burned and more.

Wearables offer tools that help people monitor and understand their bodies and, so the promise goes, improve their lives. Apple CEO Tim Cook has even said the technology company aspires to save your life.

As a professor who studies technology, I've spent the past decade researching smartwatches and other wearables. My new book, "Bringers of Order: Wearable Technologies and the Manufacturing of Everyday Life," considers the gap between what these products promise and what they actually do.

Wearables rely on complicated sets of sensors and computer systems to create data for each user. As these devices become more common – and more complex – I worry that people may be tempted to think less about how they work. As a result, they might accept data at face value without considering how it was generated, whether it's accurate, or even if it could put them at risk.

So to get the maximum value from wearable technologies, it's worth reflecting on the differences between what these devices seem to do and what's actually happening behind the screen. Here are a few key points to remember.

1 Steps aren't really steps

Wearable fitness trackers gained popularity in the early 2010s for their ability to count steps and measure things such as distance, calories burned and flights of stairs climbed. While it's tempting to think so-called step counts reflect the number of times a wearer's feet have completed the action of taking a step, that is not the case.

In reality, a combination of sensors and algorithms work together to produce a data point called "a step." In most instances, something called an accelerometer measures change in the wearable's velocity. This is checked against an algorithm, which provides an automatic assessment of whether enough velocity has been reached to count as a step. These components measure how much the wearable moves, not the person. Shaking one's wrist very quickly can sometimes create a "step," while walking in place might not count steps.

2 Some skin tones don't 'work' as well as others

Blood oxygen sensors have become incorporated into many smartwatches. They use a process called photoplethysmography, which uses tiny green LED lights on the underside of a smartwatch to track how blood flows through your wrist.

In 2022, a lawsuit alleged Apple was perpetuating racial bias, as its blood oxygen sensors didn't work as well on darker skin. The case was dismissed, partly because these limitations of blood oxygen sensors have been known to researchers and medical practitioners for years. In other words, it is accepted that some features will not work as well for some people.

3 Your location may not be a secret

There's an entire industry made up of people called data brokers who buy large datasets from technology companies and then sell them to advertisers, market analysts or other groups that may be interested in acquiring them.

While some companies have taken more steps to reduce or eliminate the sharing of data with third parties, and government agencies have offered strategies for users to limit location sharing, others may still share data among affiliates and service providers.

It's important to check all settings for options to reduce or eliminate data sharing. Otherwise, your private information might not remain private for long. In 2018, for example, the exercise app Strava released a "heat map" showing the running and cycling routes of all its users through the location data it had collected – and accidentally disclosed the location of multiple secret military bases around the world.

4 Wearables for consumers aren't medical grade

With wearables, as with other tech, it's important to look carefully at the terms of use.

Most devices include boilerplate language about how the data they provide the wearer should be used recreationally and not replace formal diagnostics from doctors. Even though Apple has received FDA clearance for some of its health testing features and they may be quite useful for monitoring purposes, if you're relying on data for health purposes, it's important to consult a doctor.

5 Wearables can't predict the future

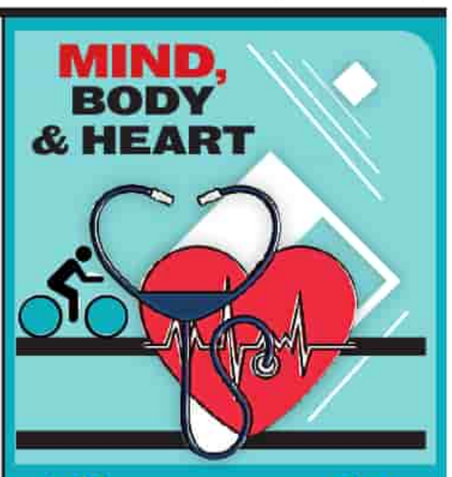
OK, maybe this seems like it should be obvious. But it's not.

Oura Ring, which pioneered measurements such as "restfulness" that try to measure how well you sleep, recently added a "symptom radar" to try to detect when you might be getting sick.

These technologies use sensors such as heart rate monitors and thermometers to detect changes in a wearer's baseline. While these sickness forecasts may be helpful, they're like weather reports for the body, detecting changes in the body's internal atmosphere using available sensors and algorithms. Any claim to predict the future is based on looking for patterns in information from the past.

While wearable tech can offer powerful insights, understanding how devices work is crucial for making sense of the data they produce. A little skepticism goes a long way: It can challenge inflated promises and protect users. In the end, wearables are best understood as interesting but imperfect tools - not magic wands.

(James Gilmore, Clemson University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Tips for summer health

Avoid Junk Completely

Avoid sugary drinks, sweets, fried snacks, processed foods, bakery items, pastries and cookies, and salted namkeen. These are high in salt, sugar and saturated fats, which cause a rapid energy rush to your bloodstream and brain, providing temporary gratification. However, it causes hormonal imbalances, and within a few minutes, one begins to feel heavy, bloated, irritated, and tired.

Keep a check on your salt and sugar intake. Eat no more than four teaspoons of sugar and one teaspoon of salt per day.

Avoid caffeinated drinks like tea/coffee and go for lemonade, coconut water, and green tea during the day.

Take Short Active Breaks

Regular exercise keeps you fit, helps in increasing metabolism thus improving digestion and nutrient absorption and reduces risk of non-communicable diseases.

Engage in some physical activity such as walking, running, jogging, and exercise for 30 to 60 minutes every day.

Practice any sport like cycling, swimming, tennis, badminton two to three times a week.

Go for small changes such as climbing stairs rather than taking elevators.

Go for a quick walk regularly in between work.

Have a dance session twice a week with your friends.

Set Reminders To Hydrate

Water is a vital component that facilitates weight management, optimises joint performance and muscles, and enhances energy levels.

Dehydration can cause tiredness, lethargy, loss of concentration and mood swings.

Carry a reusable water bottle along wherever you go.

Set a reminder on your phone to drink water throughout the day.

Coconut water, buttermilk, green tea, and lime juice are other effective options to stay hydrated and also provide additional electrolytes and nutrients.

—Femina

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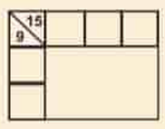
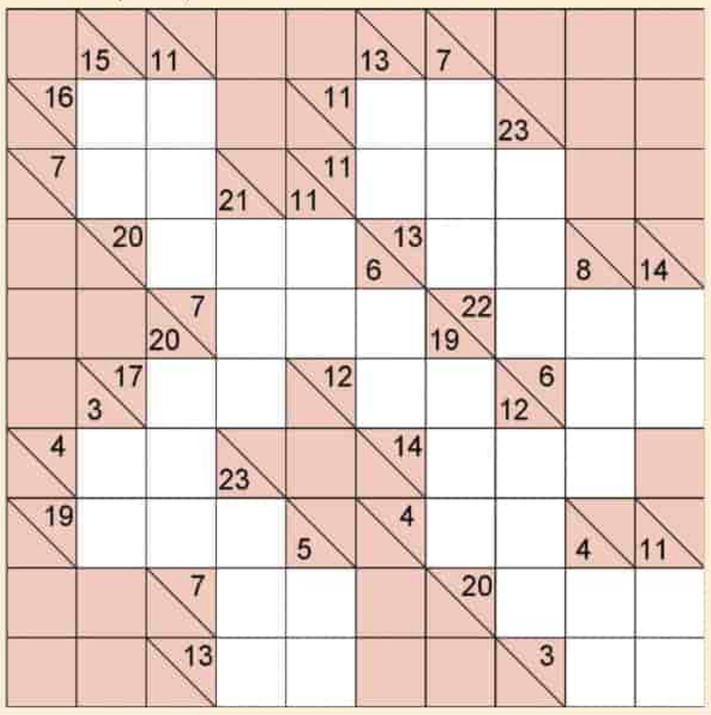
Kakuro

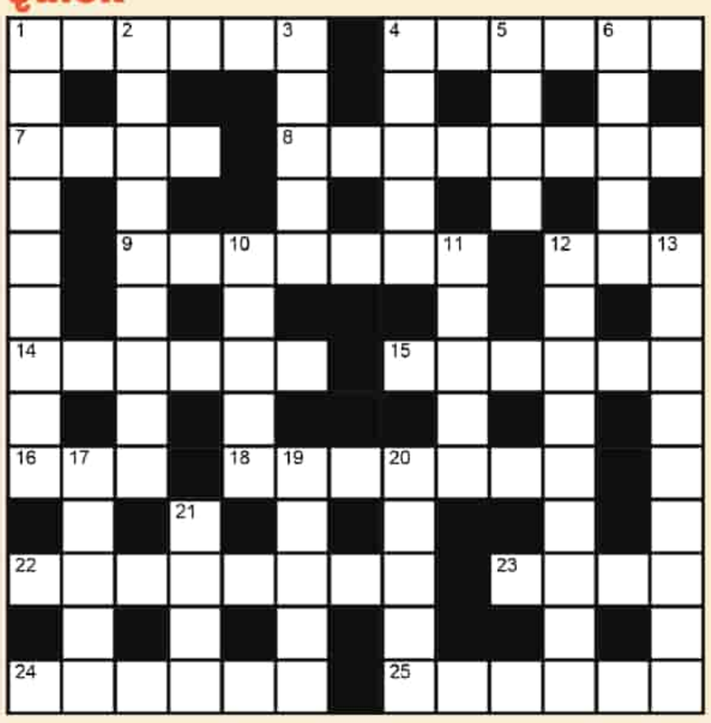
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Idly pulls strings of a musical instrument (6)
4 Hayfield (6)
7 Gather (4)
8 Famous German novel : ___ ____ on the Western Front? (3,5)
9 Irish wailing spirit (7)
12 U-turn from NNW (3)
14 Evades or eludes (6)
15 Native drum (6)
16 Bother (3)
18 First caliph of Mecca (3,4)
22 Relating to a choice of one of two possible courses (6-2)
23 __ farm : horse breeding farm? (4)
24 Rue (6)
25 In disagreement or at variance? (2,4)

DOWN

1 Indian goddess of wisdom (9)
2 Traffic-halting barrier (9)
3 Flies like an eagle (5)
4 Beach near Udupi (5)
5 An astringent (4)
6 Forebodings or portents (5)
10 Olympic great Comaneci (5)
11 Deadly African disease (5)
12 Sodden (9)
13 The Furies of Greek mythology (9)
17 Worker's reward (5)
19 Explode (5)
20 Real Madrid's arch-rivals in short (5)
21 Norse deity (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS T

M HYUTMTS YW APD XDHYB-DTS TZZV JZT APD UYTAP ZJ YXDMW, M FHMID RPDTD PYWAZTS IZVDW AZ HYJD.

Linemaro

I would love to practise wrestling with you

Mindchow

Drunkenness is nothing but voluntary madness

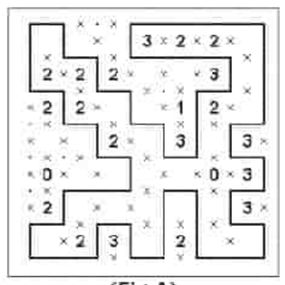
Joke of the day

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks

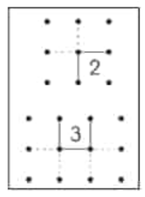
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

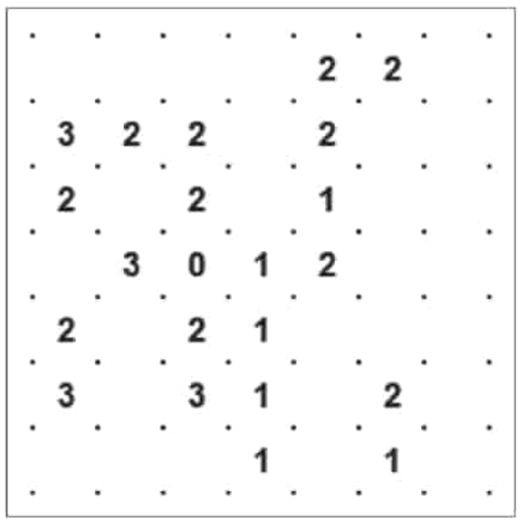


(Fig B) Not Allowed

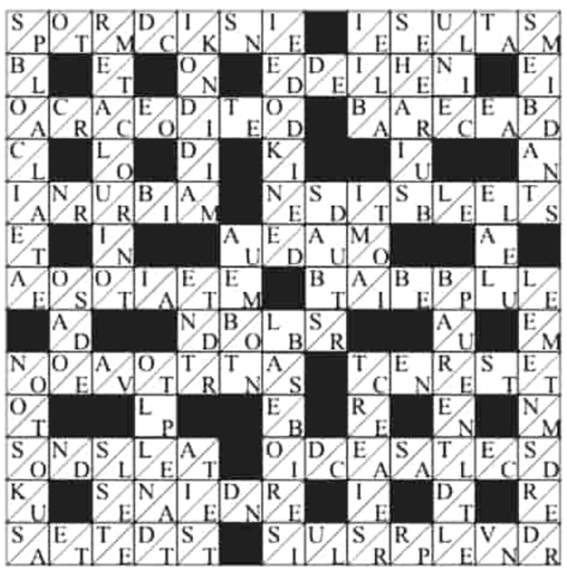
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



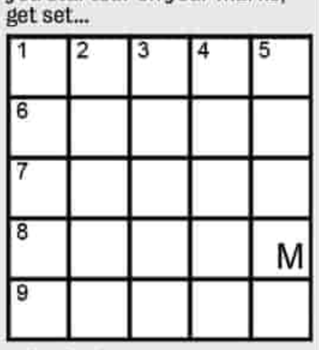
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

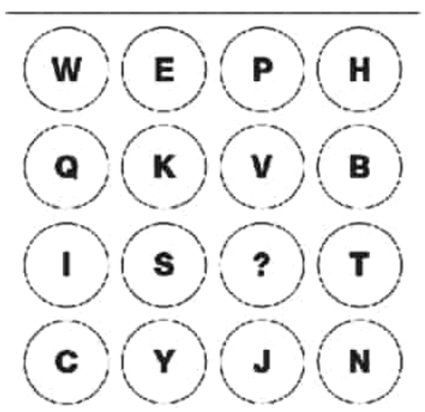
1 SS Cab; 6 Venal; 7 I rob I; 8 Sob mo; 9 SS Pol

DOWN

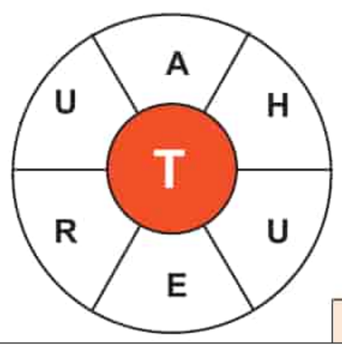
1 Bos'ns; 2 Claro; 3 Via so; 4 PE Bob; 5 Miss L

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is missing from the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9		7				1	5
				1	9			7
2	7			3				
							4	6
3			2		4			8
1	4							
				6			2	4
6			3	9				
8	2				1		9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2
1 4 8 9

Medium = 1
3 4 7 9

Hard = 2
5 5 6 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bag is larger. 2. Fence rail is missing. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Cap is reversed. 5. Tree is added. 6. Hill is added in distance.

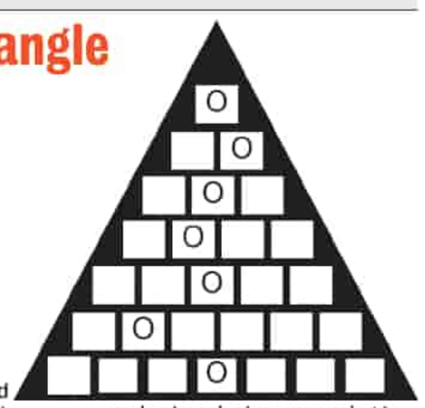
Riddler

Based on the clue in parentheses, find a four-letter word that can be inserted backwards into the blank to complete a longer word.

1. r____ant (body part)
2. for____b (distance)

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 Infinitive word
3 Go bad
4 Ripped
5 Put away
6 Promote
7 Endeavours



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I YAM SORRY I TASTED YER EXPERIMENT!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GRANNY'S SOUP!
WHAT IS THIS GREAT INVENTION OF YOURS?
THIS, SIR, IS SYNTHETIC POLLUTION FOR SMALL STREAMS AND PONDS!
ONE PINT WILL POLLUTE A THOUSAND MILES OF STREAM!
popeye.com
8-15

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YEESH, HOW DOES HEART CARRY ALL OF THESE BOOKS? I'M DYIN' HERE!
OKAY. MADE IT TO HER LOCKER. NOW TO GET TO CLASS BEFORE THE BELL RINGS AND IT'S...
...ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCHOOL!?!
Flip Over for Second Floor
1ST PERIOD
END PERIOD
3RD PERIOD
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@DOODLES.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

THE WORST BAND NIGHTMARES ARE ABOUT THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS, WHICH WAS ALWAYS HELD IN A MONSOON.
ONE YEAR SOME INSTRUMENTS THAT WERE SITTING BY THE FOOTBALL FIELD JUST FLOATED AWAY!
LUCKILY, THEY WERE MOSTLY IN THE TROMBONE SECTION!
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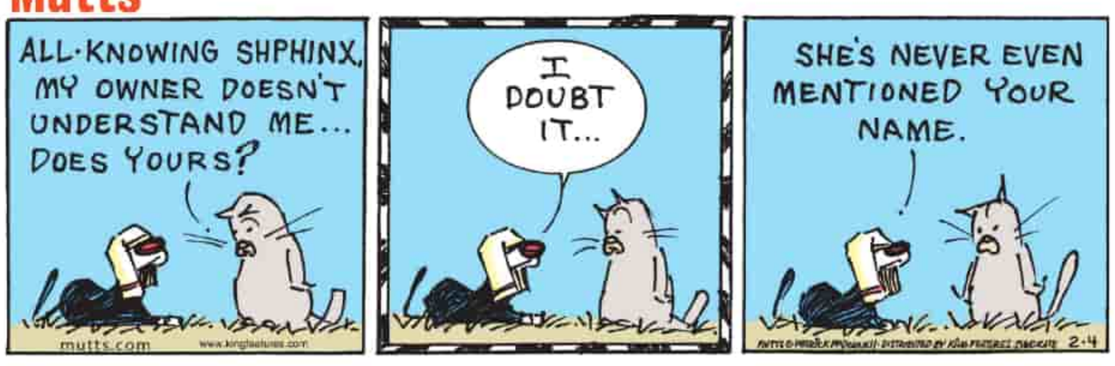
BATTLUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts


ALL-KNOWING SHPHINX, MY OWNER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME... DOES YOURS?
I DOUBT IT...
SHE'S NEVER EVEN MENTIONED YOUR NAME.
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may sense positive vibrations around you that guide you in the right direction. A calm mind may boost your performance across all areas. Destiny seems to favor you now. You might plan a spiritual journey to a distant place. Your inner voice could inspire you to donate to a charitable cause.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may experience internal weakness today, and some past health issues might resurface. Enjoyment on both personal and professional fronts may feel limited. Ongoing projects could unexpectedly stall, causing frustration. Drive cautiously. The blessings of elders could help you navigate this tough period.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Positive energy surrounds you, bringing stability. You may consider starting a new business in partnership. A long-distance journey might also be on the cards. Strengthening your bond with your spouse will bring harmony at home.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today looks promising, especially for investors, as gains could improve your financial standing. Previously blocked funds might be released, enhancing business liquidity. Confidence will help you handle hidden enemies. Singles may meet someone special at work or in a related field.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You might feel discontent and struggle with your responsibilities today. Investments could result in losses, so caution is advised. Always read documents thoroughly before signing. Concerns over your parents' health might weigh on your mood. Postpone any plans for office renovations.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may consider relocating or changing jobs today. Take time to reflect before making any major move. While your mind is at peace, concerns about your children's health could arise. Avoid speculative investments. Couples should be patient before making major commitments like marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Patience will be your strength today. Meditation may improve your focus and help accelerate project completion. Support from subordinates will make work smoother. Short work-related trips are possible, and a well-connected person may help expand your professional network.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may be busy with family gatherings and social events. Your polite demeanor will boost your reputation. Spending on household items or decorative pieces could enhance your social image. A relative might bring you good news.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
With the Moon's blessings, you may feel happy and healthy. This renewed energy will improve your work performance and reputation. Strong concentration will help you make impactful decisions in business, driving growth.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your vitality may be low today, and a recurring health issue might bother you. Avoid risky activities and adventurous travel. Legal disputes are best handled outside of court. You might start planning an overseas trip as well.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your day may begin on a cheerful note. Quick decisions at work may improve your management skills and lead to long-term gains. A new income source could strengthen your finances. Support from a business partner might lead to a fruitful investment. Your relationship with your spouse will deepen, bringing domestic harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may find yourself consumed by work, leaving little time for family. Mental exhaustion could take a toll. However, blessings from elders may help job seekers land high-level positions, and managers may be promoted. Recognition or rewards may elevate your professional status today.

KIDZONE

Purvika VG, 8 years, Orchids International School

Anvith Paul, 9 years, NPS school

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3x2x1(1+1+1) = 6(3) = 18

RIDDLER
1. resonant (NOSE - r_ESON_ant) &
2. forelimb (MILE - for_ELIM_b)

QUOTE UNCODE
A library is the delivery room for the birth of ideas, a place where history comes to life.

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	B	S
N	A	V	E	L
O	R	I	B	I
B	O	S	O	M
S	L	O	P	S

BULL'S EYE
earth, hart, hate, hater, haute, HAUTEUR, heart, heat, hurt, rate, tear, true

STRIKE OUT

P	O	R	C	I	N	E		I	S	L	A	M		
L	E		N		D	E	L	H	I		I			
C		O		I			U				A			
A	C	C	E	D	E	D	A	R	C	E	D			
A	R	U	B	A		E	D	I	B	L	E	S		
T		N		A	D	A	M			E				
E	S	T	A	T	E		B	A	B	B	L	E		
	A			N	O	B	S		U		M			
N	O	V	O	T	N	A		T	E	R	S	E		
O		L		B		R		E		N				
N	O	T	E		B	O	O	K		T	O			
	A			I										
O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L							

QUICK

R	E	G	R	E	T		A	T	O	O	D	S		
S		O		S		C		S		E		E		
E	I	T	H	E	R	O	R		S	T	U	D		
A		T		U		A		A			A	I		
I	R	K		A	B	U	B	A	K	R		N		
T		C		I		L		U				E		
A	V	O	I	D	S		T	O	M	T	O	M		
W		L		A		B		A		S	S	E		
S		B	A	N	S	H	E	E		S		U		
A		D		R		P		M		N				
R	E	A	F		A	L	L	O	U	I		T		
A		O		O		A		L		M				
S	T	R	U	M	S		M	E	A	D	O	W		

MENSA PUZZLE
D. Start on the bottom left and move up to the top, then to the right one space and down to the bottom. Letters follow the alphabetic sequence alternately in steps of 6, then 8. Starting on the bottom right and moving up to the top, then left one space and down to the bottom, letters in this half follow the same pattern.

SUDOKU

8	2	7	1	4	5	9	6	3
6	5	4	3	9	2	8	7	1
9	1	3	8	6	7	5	2	4
1	4	5	9	8	6	7	3	2
3	6	9	2	7	4	1	5	8
7	8	2	1	5	3	9	4	6
2	7	1	6	3	5	4	8	9
5	3	8	4	1	9	2	6	7
4	9	6	7	2	8	3	1	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0 , To, Rot, Tore, Store, Foster, Efforts.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 9 - 1 + 4 = 2
Medium
9 + 3 - 7 - 4 = 1
Hard
8 + 5 - 6 - 5 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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Sparkly character— Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson had certain plans for her character in 'Jurassic World Rebirth'. The actress wanted it to be "a little bit sparkly". The star leads the cast of the new movie in the dinosaur franchise

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Tuesday, May 13, 2025
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Advice that helped

Ibrahim reveals tips from his dad and Priyanka motivated him after film drubbing

Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh's son Ibrahim Ali Khan made his debut with 'Nadaaniyan' which released on OTT. It was produced by Karan Johar and had Khushi Kapoor opposite him. The film faced a lot of backlash and both Ibrahim and Khushi faced criticism for their acting. The internet was flooded with criticism for them and many also felt that perhaps people were being more harsh towards them because they are star kids. Now Ibrahim has opened up on the advice he got from his father Saif Ali Khan after the backlash.

He also revealed that it was a text from Priyanka Chopra which really motivated him. When asked about the best advice he got, he told GQ, "From two people. My dad said this is not the year 2000 when a star can just walk around in a movie and it can be a blockbuster. Today you must be very prepared, and be a quick learner. Most importantly, he said the script and the filmmaker are two things you cannot compromise on."

Ibrahim revealed further, "The second one was from – Priyanka Chopra. She sent me a very sweet -message saying she watched the film and thinks I have a bright future. She said I have to hold my head high and keep grinding; and that I must grow a thick skin. Coming from someone as accomplished as she is, I felt really comforted and motivated."

Meanwhile, Ibrahim's grandmom Sharmila Tagore had also reacted to 'Nadaaniyan'. She had said in an interview with Ananda Bazar Patrika, "Sara and Ibrahim are doing a wonderful job. Ibrahim's film was not good, but he still looks very handsome. He has tried his best. These things shouldn't really be said in front of everyone, but honestly, the film (Nadaaniyan) isn't great. Ultimately, the film has to be good." —ETimes

Not yet an author

Actor Sonali Bendre, who recently released her second book "A Book of Books", says she has "mad respect" for authors and would not call herself one until she writes at least 20 of them. Bendre, best known for films such as "Diljale", "Major Saab", "Sarfarosh", "Zakhm", and "Hum Saath Saath Hain", said being a public figure gives her the "privilege" to write and engage in meaningful conversations though she still primarily views herself as an actor.

"I'll call myself an author only if I write 20 books, not before that. I have some mad respect for authors -- what they do, the way they write, the way an author can transport you somewhere, the way they make you think; only an author can do that.

"So, I have really not thought of myself as an author in that sense. I have always looked at myself more as an actor, but it is a creative field. I am a creative person, and there are various ways through which you express your creativity," Bendre told PTI in an interview.

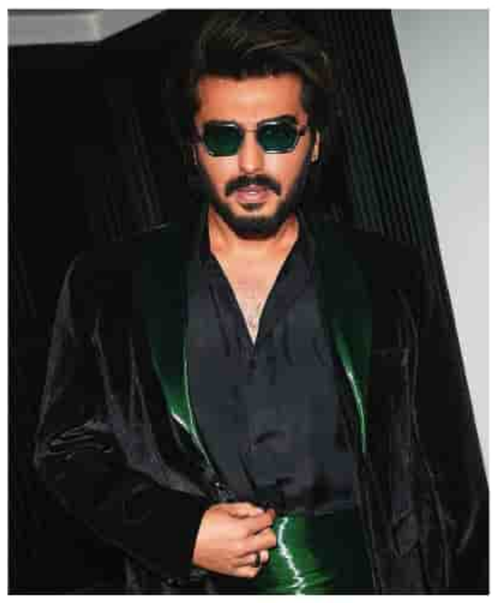
The actor's passion for books led her to launch 'Sonali's Book Club', a digital community that celebrates literature and meaningful conversations. She debuted as an author in 2015 with "The Modern Gurukul: My Experiment with Parenting". Her latest endeavour, "A Book of Books", is intended for everyone -- both avid readers and those less inclined -- and delves into the importance of reading, especially the value of starting young.—PTI

Celebrating his 13th

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who was recently seen in the box-office bomb, 'Mere Husband Ki Biwi' is celebrating 13 years of his debut. The actor also promised a new version of him set to embrace the screens.

On Monday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a carousel featuring photos from his childhood and teenage years. He also penned an open letter to himself.

He wrote, "Dear 26-year old Arjun, You did it. You are standing at the edge of a dream that once felt impossible. I know how many nights you stayed up, watching films, believing somehow that cinema would be your escape, your purpose. You also worked hard to transform, not just your body but your mind and your spirit. The hours, the discipline, the setbacks, they were all worth it. Stay humble, stay hungry. And, never forget this journey began with a bullied kid, who simply loved movies too much to give up".



Arjun made his debut with 'Ishaqzaade' opposite Parineeti Chopra. The two played star-crossed lovers in the film. —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Similar title

Namma Kiccha Sudeep played the lead role in Thayavva that was released in September 1997. Now, another movie with the same title is in the making. Geetha Priya, apart from bankrolling the latest movie, is playing the lead in the film directed by Sathvik Pavan Kumar.

The movie's trailer was launched by Pranayaraja Srinath at Renukamba Preview Theater recently. Padmashree awardee Dr Kamini Rao, Lahari Velu, Lakshminarayana, senior producer Ba Ma Hareesh, and Padmavathi were present on the occasion.

Pranayaraja Srinath said that he liked the name – Geetha Priya – very much because it reminds him of veteran director Geetha Priya, whose films he has acted in more than a decade ago. "The trailer emphasises on the importance of women," said Srinath.

Dr Kamini Rao said that she was happy when she came to know that this movie is about midwives in rural areas, especially about Sulagitti Narasamma, a well-known midwife from Pavagada.

Trailer unveiled

Veteran actor Mandya Ramesh unveiled the trailer of movie Dhi. He appreciated the quality of the trailer and has also wished the cast and crew good luck. Dhi is scheduled to arrive in theaters on May 16. The movie is bankrolled under the VDK Cinemas banner. Vinay Vasudev, apart from playing the lead, has directed this movie.

"The title of the movie is innovative and can create curiosity among the moviegoers. I am a hardcore fan of Kichcha Sudeep. There is a letter – dhi – in Sudeep's name. I have two teachers whose names too have the letter – dhi. The protagonist's name in the movie is Deepu. The heroine's name is Disha Ramesh. So, I opted for the letter Dhi as the title of this movie," said Vasudev.

He said that around 80% of the movie was shot in a forest and other places including Devarayana Durga and Devaramane. "The movie has turned out well. I am grateful to the cast and crew. I appeal to moviegoers to support this movie by watching it at theatres on May 16," he said.